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HISTORICAL ANECDOTES.

THE laws, as well as the other branches of learning among the ancient Britons, were couched in verſe. Though this may appear a little extraordinary to us, it was far from being peculiar to the ancient Britons. "The firſt laws of all nations (ſays a learned writer on this ſubject) were compoſed of verſe, and ſung. We have certain proof that the firſt laws of Greece were a kind of ſongs. The laws of the ancient inhabitants of Spain were verſes, which they ſung. Twiſton was regarded by the Germans as their firſt lawgiver. They ſaid he put his laws into verſes and ſongs. This ancient cuſtom was long kept up by ſeveral nations." This practice of compoſing their laws in verſe, and forming them into ſongs, was owing to that ſurpriſing love which the nations of antiquity bore to poetry and muſick. This alſo rendered thoſe laws more agreeable to a poetical people, made it eaſier for them to get by heart, and retain them in memory.

THOUGH the hair and wool of animals were probably the firſt, yet they were not long the only materials that were uſed for making cloth for garments. The attention and induſtry of mankind ſoon diſcovered ſeveral other things that were fit for anſwering that purpoſe, particularly the long, ſlender, and flexible filaments of flax and hemp. Theſe plants were cultivated with this view, and their fine fibres (after they were ſeparated from the wool and prepared) were ſpun into yarn, and woven into cloth, in Egypt, Paleſtine, and other eaſtern countries, in very ancient times. From them theſe arts of cultivating, dreſſing, and ſpinning flax, and weaving linen cloth were communicated to ſeveral European nations, by ſlow degrees, and at different times. It was even long after they had been practiſed in the eaſt, that they made their way into Italy, and were generally received in that country. For ſome of the greateſt families among the old Romans boaſted that they made no uſe of linen in their houſes, or about their perſons; and the uſe of it was long conſidered as a mark of effeminacy, and a piece of criminal luxury, by that brave and hardy people. By ſlow degrees, however, the manufactory and uſe of this pleaſant, cleanly, and beautiful kind of cloth prevailed, not only over all Italy, but alſo in Spain, Gaul, Germany, and Britain.

BARDS.

THE word Bard being a primitive noun, neither divided nor compounded, it can neither be traced to its root, nor reſolved into its parts. It ſignified one who was a poet by his genius and profeſſion, and who employed much of his time in compoſing and ſinging verſes on many various ſubjects and occaſions. The Bards conſtituted one of the moſt reſpectable orders of men in the ancient Britiſh ſtates, and many of the greateſt Kings, heroes and nobles eſteemed it an honour to be enrolled in this order. They enjoyed, by law and cuſtom, many honourable diſtinctions and valuable privileges. Kings and Princes made choice of Bards to be their boſom friends and conſtant companions, indulged them with the greateſt familiarity, and gave them the moſt flattering titles. Their perſons were held ſacred and inviolable, and the moſt cruel and bloody tyrants dared not offer them any injury. The cruel Caractacus, who had murdered the Royal Race with his own hand, durſt proceed no farther againſt his Bards. He feared to ſtretch his hand, though his ſoul was dark. He was touched by his heroick brother Caſſimor, for having proceeded ſo far. "He heard our voice from the cave; he turned the eyes of his wrath on Caractacus, chief of Atha! He ſaid, how long will thou pain my ſoul? Thy heart is like the rock of the deſart, and thy thoughts are dark. Caractacus, looſe the Bards, they are the ſons of other times; their voice ſhall be heard, in other years, after the Kings of Temora have failed."

The Bards, as well as the Druids, were exempted from taxes and military ſervices, even in times of the greateſt danger; and when they attended their patrons in the field, to record and celebrate their great actions, they had a guard aſſigned them for their protection. At all feſtivals and publick aſſemblies, they were ſeated near the perſon of the King, or chieftain, and ſometimes even above the greateſt nobility, and chief officers of the court. Nor was the profeſſion of the Bards leſs lucrative than it was honourable; for beſides the valuable preſents which they occaſionally received from their patrons, when they gave them uncommon pleaſure by their performances, they had eſtates in land allotted for their ſupport; nay, ſo great was the veneration which the Princes of theſe times entertained for the perſons of their poets, and ſo highly were they charmed and delighted with their tuneful ſtrains, that they ſometimes pardoned even their capital crimes for a long.

We may very reaſonably ſuppoſe, that a profeſſion that was at once ſo honourable and advantageous, and enjoyed ſo many flattering diſtinctions and deſirable immunities, would not be deſerted. It was, indeed, very much crouded; and the accounts which we have of the numbers of the Bards in ſome countries, particularly in Ireland, are hardly credible. We often read, in the poems of Oſſian, of one hundred Bards belonging to one Prince, ſinging and playing in concert for his entertainment. Every chief Bard, who was called Allah Redan, or Doctor of Poetry, was allowed to have thirty Bards of inferiour note conſtantly about his perſon; and every Bard of the ſecond rank was allowed a retinue of fifteen poetical diſciples. But it is probable, that the Bards of Britain and Ireland were not ſo numerous in the period we are now delineating, as they became afterwards, nor were they then guilty of thoſe crimes by which they at length forfeited the publick favour. In this moſt ancient period, the Britiſh Bards ſeem to have been, in general, men of genius and virtue, who merited the honours which they enjoyed

MUSICK.

AS inſtrumental muſick was at firſt invented to accompany and aſſiſt the voice in ſinging, ſo it was long employed in all countries to that purpoſe only. This was evidently the caſe among the ancient Britons. Oſſian, the ſweet voice of Cona, who excelled as much both in vocal and inſtrumental muſick as he did in poetry, ſeems to have had no idea of playing on an inſtrument without ſinging at the ſame time. Whenever his Bards touch the ſtring, they always raiſe the ſong. This was probably one of thoſe circumſtances which rendered the muſick of the ancients ſo affecting, and enabled it to produce ſuch ſtrong emotions of rage, love, joy, grief, and other paſſions in the hearers, by conveying the pathetick ſtrains of poetry to their hearts, in the moſt touching, ſoftening, joyous, or plaintive ſounds.

Though the ancient Britons were not altogether unacquainted with wind inſtruments of muſick, yet they ſeem to have delighted chiefly in the lyre, or harp. This inſtrument is ſaid to have been invented by the Scythians, and was much uſed by all the Celtic nations. At firſt it had only four or five ſtrings, of thongs, made of an ox's ſkin, and was played upon with a plectrum, made of the jaw bone of a [illegible]. But the conſtruction of this inſtrument was gradually improved, and the number of its ſtrings increaſed, though we do not know with certainty to what number of ſtrings the ancient Britiſh harp conſiſted. They played upon it with their fingers, and not with a plectrum.

The ancient Britons ſung and played by ear, and their tunes, as well as their poems, were handed down from one age to another, the author of each poem compoſing its muſick, which was taught at the ſame time with the poem. This muſick, like that of other ancient nations, was in general ſimple and natural, ſuited to the ſubject of the ſong or poem for which it was compoſed, which made it more affecting than the more artificial, but leſs natural muſick of later ages.

THE ancient Germans, Danes, and other northern nations were not unacquainted with the exiſtence of the ſupreme Deity, or the immortality of the ſoul; that exiſteth the Eternal, the Almighty and Awful King, the Searcher of hearts, the Being that never changes, and governeth during the ages; dwelling in the light which is high, and every thing which is holy. To this glorious Being they eſteemed it impious to attempt any viſible repreſentation, or to imagine that he could be confined within the walls of a temple. But their great truths had been in ſome meaſure corrupted by the introduction of a multitude of Gods and images, before the arrival of the Saxons, and Danes in England. The Druids and Daniſh Prieſts believed and taught the immortality of the human ſoul, and a ſtate of rewards and puniſhments after death, reſembling the Elyſian fields and the tranſmigration of ſouls, [illegible]. The place of rewards they called Valhalla, where heroes ſpent the day in martial ſports, and the night in feaſting on the fleſh of the boar Sahrimner, and drinking large draughts of beer or mead out of the ſculls of their enemies, which they had ſlain, and which were preſented to them by beautiful young virgins, who waited upon them at table. The place of puniſhment they called Niflheim, or the abode of the goddeſs Hela dwelt, whoſe place was anguiſh, her diſh famine, her waiters expectation and delay, the [illegible] hold of her door precipice, her bed ſickneſs, and her looks ſtruck terror into all beholders. In the former of theſe places all brave and good men, and in the latter, all cowards and bad men, were to reſide to the end of this world, when the heavens and the earth, and even the Gods themſelves, were to be conſumed by fire. After this general conflagration, a new and more glorious world was to ariſe out of the aſhes of the former; the heroes, with all good and juſt men, were to be admitted into Gimle, a palace built of ſhining gold, far more beautiful than the ſun; and cowards, aſſaſſins, and falſe ſwearers, were to be confined in Naſtrande, a place built of the carcaſſes of ſerpents, far more diſmal than Niflheim.

MR. Wm. Merret, of Southampton, deſires by this to advertiſe himſelf that he is in want of a wife. He is a ſtout jolly man, fair ſkin, and his age about 40. He would be glad of a woman about the ſame age; is a man of good account, and expects in his wife one article more than commonly falls to the ſhare of a man. Any woman whom this may ſuit, may apply to Mr. Merret. None but thoſe of good character will be looked upon.

LONDON, *September* 28.

To the KING's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The Addreſs of the Lord Mayor, ſheriffs, commons, and citizens, of the city of Dublin, in common council aſſembled.

"*Gracious Sovereign,*

WE the Lord Mayor, ſheriffs, commons, and citizens of your ancient city of Dublin, thus dutifully approach the throne, roufed with honeſt indignation at the inſidious deſigns of your Majeſty's enemies of the Houſe of Bourbon, and warm with the moſt ardent zeal to maintain the ſafety and honour of your government; influenced by theſe ſentiments, we for a while forget the unjuſt and unpolitick reſtrictions on our commerce, continued at the deſire of your Majeſty's ſubjects of Britain, and eager to preſs forward in their defence, we lay far behind us the remembrance of the many wrongs we have borne, yet we truſt your Majeſty's wiſdom and clemency will accept the tender we now make of our lives and fortunes in ſupport of any juſt or neceſſary war; not as the offer of a people inſenſible to the accumulated diſtreſſes heaped upon them, by falſe policy and ignorant Miniſters; nor as a mere formal addreſs, procured by miniſterial influence from penſioned hirelings, who in the day of trial would ſhrink from you, but as the free will offering of men zealous to manifeſt the unſpotted loyalty of their country to the auguſt houſe of Brunſwick; as the firſt determination of ſubjects confiding in the beneficent intentions of their Sovereign, and who entertain an humble hope, that by the favour of Divine Providence, the united efforts of all your ſubjects, and the aſſiſtance of wiſer councils than have lately been adopted, the Britiſh empire may not only defeat her numerous enemies, but riſe once more to that ſtrength and glory, from which at preſent that empire has ſo miſerably fallen."

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at Peterſburg, *to his correſpondent in* London.

"The politicks of England and her enemies, are the queſtion and almoſt univerſal ſubject here. I cannot expreſs a moſt agreeable ſenſation, I feel, in obſerving a generous partiality here to that country, in which I had the advantage and the honour of being [illegible]. I am converſant with ſome of the firſt families [illegible], and glory in ſaying, that any news favourable to the Britiſh arms, is received here with a generous concern and ſympathy. The vaſt [illegible] Europe, united againſt one poor iſland; the [illegible] efforts of American rebellion and French [illegible], now aided by the Court of Spain, have [illegible] the moſt liberal ſentiments in a Ruſſian breaſt; [illegible] every heart of a Frenchman is held in the [illegible] deteſtation.

"[illegible]gh no aſſiſtance has been yet given by this [illegible] to curb the ambition of the Houſe of Bourbon, [illegible] powerful force will ſhortly be at the ſervice [illegible], if reports now circulating here be true, [illegible] the Empreſs has actually engaged to ſupply [illegible] Majeſty, with 40,000 of the beſt troops [illegible].

"I know her Majeſty is well attached to the inter[illegible] of England. She reads the Engliſh hiſtory, is [illegible] the Engliſh language, and encourages the [illegible] muſic. I have received great favours from [illegible] Empreſs, and pronounce her one of the [illegible] and illuſtrious characters of the age."

Character of Charles *the third, the preſent King of* Spain.

"The King is a much better looking man than moſt of his pictures make him; he has a good natured laughing eye; the lower part of his face, by being [illegible] to all weather, is become of a deep copper colour; when his hat covers is fair, as he naturally has a good ſkin; in ſtature he is rather ſhort, thickly [illegible] about the legs and thighs, and narrow in the ſhoulders. His dreſs ſeldom varies from a large hat, a plain grey Segovia frock, a buff waiſtcoat, a ſmall dagger, black breeches and worſted ſtockings; his pockets are always ſtuffed with knives, gloves, and ſhooting tackle. On (Gala) court days, a fine ſuit is hung upon his ſhoulders, but as he has an eye to his afternoon's ſport, and is a great œconomiſt of his time, the black breeches are born to all coats. I believe there are but three days in the whole year, that he ſpends either in going a ſhooting, and theſe are [illegible] the blacket mark in the calender; were they to occur when his health would be in danger, and an accident that was to confine him to the houſe, would infallibly bring on a fit of illneſs. No ſtorm, heat, cold, or wet, can keep him at home; and when he hears of a wolf being ſeen, diſtance is counted for nothing; he would drive over half the kingdom rather than miſs an opportunity of firing upon that favourite game. Beſides a moſt numerous retinue of perſons belonging to the hunting eſtabliſhment, ſeveral times a year all the idle fellows in and about Madrid, are hired to beat the country, and drive the wild boars, deers and hares, into a ring, where they paſs before the royal family. A very large annual ſum is diſtributed among the proprietors of land about the capital, and near the country palaces, by way of indemnification for the damages done to the corn. I was aſſured that it coſt ſeventy thouſand pounds ſterling for the environs of Madrid, and thirty thouſand for thoſe of St. Ildefonſe. In order to be entitled to this reimburſement, the farmers ſcatter juſt as much ſeed corn over their ground, as will grow up into ſomething like a crop; but they do not always give themſelves the trouble of getting in the ſcanty harveſt, being ſufficiently paid for their labour by the royal bounty.

Being naturally of an even, phlegmatic temper, the King is ſure to ſee events on their favourable ſide only, and whenever he has determined in his own mind, that a meaſure is proper to be purſued, he is an utter ſtranger to alteration. As far as I can judge by comparing the different accounts I have had, he is a man of the ſtricteſt probity, incapable of adopting any ſcheme unleſs he is perfectly ſatisfied in his own conſcience that it is juſt and honourable; of ſuch immoveable features, that the moſt fortunate or the moſt diſaſtrous occurrences are alike unable to create the ſmalleſt variation in them; rigid in his morals, and ſtrenuouſly attached to his religion, but he does not ſuffer his devotion to lay him open to the enterpriſes of the Court of Rome, or the encroachments of his own clergy; on the contrary, they have frequently met with rougher uſage at his hands than they might have expected from a free thinker. The regularity of his own life renders him very ſtrict about the conduct of his children, whom he obliges to be out fiſhing or ſhooting as long as he is abſent on the ſame buſineſs; this he does to prevent their having time or opportunity to harbour bad thoughts; and truly I believe he goes out ſo conſtantly himſelf to keep down the vigour of his own conſtitution. He ſeldom addreſſes himſelf to any young men of his court, but delights in converſing and joking with elderly perſons, and ſuch as are of his own age, eſpecially Monks and Friars. He is very partial to Naples, and always ſpeaks of that country with great feeling.

BASSATERRE, *Nov.* 30.

Captain Roſs *of his Majeſty's ſhip* Roebuck, *of* 44 *guns, juſt arrived, gives the following account, September* 25

HE fell in with twelve ſail of French line of battle ſhips ſix leagues eaſt of Tybee. He ſaw an Engliſh man of war of two decks, under jury maſts engaged with an eighty gun ſhip, to which ſhe ſtruck, after engaging thirty five minutes. Captain Roſs took one of the French ſtore ſhips, by which he was informed, that the French fleet had loſt all their anchors and cables off St. Auguſtine, that they were obliged to put to ſea in a hard gale of wind, which carried away the maſts and bolt ſprits of twelve ſail of the line, and ſeparated them from the Count, which he ordered to the Cheſepeake. Two of the line, ſix frigates, and a number of merchantmen left him at the ſame time, ſome of them for the Cheſepeake, ſome for Boſton, and ſome for Europe. The three ſhips met by the Boſton brig, muſt have been of theſe twelve, becauſe their log books mentioned the capture of the Experiment.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in St. Martins, *November* 19, 1779.

"Freſh proviſions grow ſcarce daily, we ſhall have none ſoon. A pilot boat arrived yeſterday in ſeventeen days from Baltimore, who can give no account of D'Eſtaing or his fleet, and has brought no papers."

The foregoing extract convinces us our former obſervations are juſt. When any untoward accident has happened to the Americans, or their great and good ally the King of ſlaves, they are totally ſilent as to matters of news; but, if the leaſt favourable turn happens to their affairs, they, like our famous brother printer of Bruſſels, of lying memory, or even like our good friend Monſieur le imprimeur ala Martiniquo, will boaſt of victories never gained, battles never fought, and ſucceſſes they had no right to expect. We hope the following will evince the truth of theſe obſervations.

It is certain D'Eſtaing landed a conſiderable number of troops in Georgia, and ſent a flag to Governour Wright to offer twenty four hours to conſider of a capitulation. Sir James immediately ſent word to General Prevoſt, who ordered the highlanders (the 42) to march to oppoſe the enemy, who, though they proceed twenty four hours, kept advancing contrary to the faith of treaties (for the offer implied a kind of treaty), but was met by the highlanders, and ſome other troops, at a place and where they did not expect them; when the highlanders gave a fire and ruſhed on with ſuch fury, as threw the French into ſuch confuſion, and a ſtorm coming on at the ſame time, obliged the Count to endeavour a retreat, but was ſo cloſely purſued by the Britiſh troops, that he left all his artillery behind him, together with all the ſtores he had landed. This account, which we might almoſt vouch for a fact, did not reach our Baltimore hero, though he had been only out ſeventeen days before his arrival at St. Martins.

This morning advice was received, that the Venus frigate has fallen in with, and taken the Reſolu of 40 guns, to the ſouthward of Montſerrat.

The account given in our laſt of Count D'Eſtaing's defeat at Georgia and the ſtorm he afterwards met with which diſabled his fleet, comes confirmed beyond a doubt, both from St. Euſtatius and the French iſlands; a frigate belonging to the Count's fleet has arrived at Guadaloupe with a number of wounded officers and men; the Martinique accounts ſay, that the French army loſt 1500 men; a veſſel from New England arrived a few days ago at St. Euſtatius, who ſay, that the Count was routed by Colonel Maitland, and would have been entirely cut off but for General Lincoln, who came to his aſſiſtance with 9000 Americans, but was himſelf ſo roughly handled that he loſt 7000 men killed wounded and taken priſoners; and Count D'Eſtaing had his thigh broke; that after the flight of the French army and navy, a ſtorm aroſe, which diſmaſted many of them, ſeveral were ſeen driving about in the gulph ſtream, and ſeven were at anchor in Cheſepeake bay, much ſhattered; that Admiral Arbuthnot had ſailed from New York with the fleet, as it was imagined in queſt of the French.

When General Clinton received intelligence of the French fleet being on the coaſt, he ſent directions to Rhode Iſland for the troops to deſtroy the works and evacuate the place, and join him at New York; but as ſoon as he heard of the French fleet being diſperſed in a ſtorm he ſent to countermand the orders, but too late, for the troops had already evacuated that place and were on their way to New York, which place they arrived at, before Captain Wilkie left it.

It was reported here yeſterday, but by what authority we cannot learn, that his Majeſty's frigate, Proſerpine, George Anſon Byron, Eſq; commander, had retaken, that forenoon, between this iſland and St. Euſtatius, the Cerus ſloop of war.

PHILADELPHIA, *Dec.* 23.

SINCE our laſt the weather has been ſo extremely cold, that our navigation is entirely ſtopped by the ice.

The ſhip Jay, mentioned to be aſhore in our laſt, is got off and arrived at Cheſter. Her cargo conſiſts of dry goods and 7000 buſhels of ſalt.

Capt. Doane, in a ſhip with 1000 buſhels of ſalt, dry goods, &c. and Capt. Peter Young, in a brig, with ſalt and Weſt India produce, from St. Euſtatius; and a ſchooner from Cape Francois, are arrived at Marcus Hook, where they are ſtopped by the ice.

By the above veſſels we learn, that the ſchooner ———, Capt Cliffton, from this port for Statia, is taken and carried into Antigua.

The brig Eagle, Captain Aſhmead, from this port was cut out of Seba, by ſome Engliſh privateer boats, who boarded him in the night — The Dutch Governour had demanded the brig to be delivered, as ſhe was taken contrary to treaties.

The ſchooner ———, Captain Strong, from St. Euſtatia for this city, has got into Egg harbour, having firſt ran aſhore on the bar.

Accounts from St Euſtatia ſay, that there has been large importations of flour into that iſland from England, ſo that it ſold for eight dollars [illegible]

The Weſt Indians have been [illegible] goods to New York for ſale

D'Eſtaing was on this coaſt; but as ſoon as they are informed he is gone off, they will repair in theſe to New York, ſo that it is to be hoped, our privateers will have good picking, if they look out ſharp.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in high office, and of the moſt reſpectable character in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts Bay, *dated November 4*

"I am pained in my inmoſt ſoul at the unhappy affair at Mr. Wilſon's houſe. I think there ought to be an article in the Declaration of Rights of every ſtate ſecuring freedom of ſpeech, impartiality, and independence at the bar. There is nothing upon which the rights of every member of ſociety more depends. There is no man ſo bad, but he ought to have a fair trial, and an equal chance to have the ableſt counſel, or the advocate of his choice to ſee that he has fair-play, and the benefit of truth and law."

A fleet of 14 ſail of Spaniſh ſhips of the line, were, it is ſaid, ordered, in September laſt, to proceed from Ferrol, with all expedition to Havannah.

On the 15th ult. the French frigate Le Senſible, ſailed from Boſton for France, in which went paſſengers the Hon. John Adams, Eſq; charged with a very important commiſſion from the Hon. Congreſs of theſe ſtates, to the Court of Verſailles, together with the Hon. Francis Dana, Eſq; Secretary to the commiſſion.

By recent accounts from New York, we learn that the embarkation of troops which took place there many weeks ago, have not yet ſailed. Their deſtination is certainly for Carolina or Georgia, but the reaſon of their not ſailing is, they have not a ſufficient convoy, as they apprehend great danger from Count D'Eſtaing's fleet.

We are informed that the refugees in New York, are in diſtreſſed circumſtances, ſeveral large families being obliged to crowd in one ſmall room, and other families cannot even procure that convenience, but are obliged to live on board ſhips in the harbour, and proviſions amazingly ſcarce and dear.

From the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET.

THE ſtate of Pennſylvania, owes its wealth to the city of Philadelphia. The city owes its pre-eminence in fire, beauty, and populouſneſs, entirely to its commerce. The commerce of the city, though reſtrained by the arbitrary edicts of Great Britain, flouriſhed for near a century, under the protection of domeſtick laws. — Warehouſes were as ſecure and ſacred as caſtles, and the merchant knew no fear, but of an enemy in war, and of the caſualties of the ocean in times of peace. It is owing to the extent and ſecurity of our commerce, together with the perfection of that part of our government, which was lodged in the hands of the people, that foreigners preferred Pennſylvania to the other ſtates. It was our commerce chiefly that raiſed the value of our lands at leaſt 25 per cent higher than any other lands on the continent.—I pity the ignorance, and pardon the delluſions of thoſe people, who inſtead of aſcribing the high price of goods and the low value of our money, to the delays and miſtakes of our rulers, aſcribe them to the avarice of our merchants. We owe the preſent flattering ſituation of our country chiefly to the enterpriſing ſpirit, the patience, the fortitude, and the ingenuity of that moſt reſpectable body of men. Let us hear what the able Raynal, the firſt ſtateſman, and the ableſt writer in Europe, ſays upon the ſubject of commerce, and the character of a merchant, and then compare it with the opinions of thoſe politicians who accuſe commerce of being "ruinous to our ſtates," and who characteriſe merchants as "bloodſuckers," as "peſts of ſociety," and as "vultures preying upon the vitals of their country."

It is a moſt pleaſing and noble ſight (ſays the Abbé) to behold all Europe peopled with laborious nations, who are perpetually ſailing round the globe, in order to cultivate and render it fit for mankind; to ſee them animate by the enlivening breath of induſtry, all the regenerating powers of nature; ſeek the abyſs of the ocean, and in the bowels of rocks, for new means of ſubſiſtance, or new enjoyments; ſtir and raiſe up the earth with all the mechanick powers inverted by genius; eſtabliſhed betwe[illegible]n the [illegible]ſhores, by the happy improvements in the [illegible]on, a communication of flying bridges, unite one continent to the other; of the ſun, overcome its annual [illegible]om the tropics to the poles upon [illegible]; in a word, to ſee them upon all the ſtreams of population and pleaſure, in order to pour them upon the face of the earth through a thouſand channels. It is then, perhaps, that the Divinity contemplates his work with ſatisfaction, and do s not repent himſelf of having made man.

Such is the image of commerce, let us now admire the genius of the merchant. The fame underſtanding that Newton had to calculate the motion of the ſtars, he exerts in tracing the progreſs of the commerce of people that fertilize the earth. His problems are the more difficult to reſolve, as the circumſtances of them are not taken from the immutable laws of nature, as the ſyſtems of the geometricians are; but depend upon the caprices of men, and the uncertainty of a thouſand events. That accurate ſpirit of combination that Cromwell and Richelieu muſt have had, the one to deſtroy, the other to eſtabliſh deſpotick government, the merchant alſo poſſeſſes and carries it further; for he takes in both worlds at one view, and directs his operations upon an infinite variety of relative conſiderations, which is ſeldom given to the Statesman, or even to the philoſopher, to comprehend and eſtimate. Nothing muſt eſcape him; he muſt foreſee the influence of the ſeaſons, upon the plenty, ſcarcity, and the quantity of proviſions, upon the departure or returns of his ſhips; the influence of political affairs upon thoſe of commerce; the changes which war or peace muſt neceſſarily occaſion in the prices and demands for merchandize, in the quantity and choice of proviſions, in the ſtate of the cities and ports of the whole world; he muſt know the conſequences that an alliance of the two northern nations may have under the torrid zone; the progreſs, either towards aggrandizement or decay, of the ſeveral trading companies, the effect that the fall of any European power in India, may have over Africa and America; the ſtagnation that may be produced in certain countries, by the blocking up of ſome of the channels of induſtry; the reciprocal connection there is between moſt branches of trade, and the mutual aſſiſtance they lend by the temporary injuries they ſeem to inflict upon each other; he muſt know the proper time to begin, and when to ſtop in every new undertaking; in a word, he muſt be acquainted with the art of making all other nations tributary to his own, and of encreaſing his own fortune by encreaſing the proſperity of his country; or rather he muſt know how to enrich himſelf by extending the general proſperity of mankind. Such are the objects that the profeſſion of the merchant engages him to attend to.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 22

WE are credibly informed that ſix loaded wagons went over James river, on the ice, from Warwick to the oppoſite ſhore, ſome time laſt week.

Several people in the courſe of this week croſſed the river between Hog iſland, Mulberry iſland, and Jamestown, upon the ice.

A great many goods have been brought from on board a ſnow and a brig which are ſunk on the Middle Ground below Martins Hundred, about a mile and a half from the ſhore, by perſons who ventured upon the ice, for which we are told the owners paid them ten per cent. for their trouble.

The following veſſels are arrived at a ſafe port with valuable cargoes, viz. The Induſtry, Capt. Rogers; Peggy Pleaſants, Captain Williamſon; and the Race Horſe, Captain Cook, all from the Weſt Indies.

☞ *No notice will be taken of letters or advertiſements ſent us, unleſs the poſtage is paid.*

To be SOLD to the higheſt bidder, on Monday *the 7th of* February *next, being* Henrico *court-day, before Mr.* Galt's *door in* Richmond *town, at three months credit,*

THE WESTHAM BREWERY, with all the appurtenances belonging thereto. Any perſon inclinable to purchaſe, may by applying to Mr. *Daniel L. Hylton,* be ſhewn the ſaid works

(2) JAMES MARSDEN, & Co.

FOR SALE,

A BOAT, 30 feet keel. Any perſon wanting ſuch a one, may know the terms by applying to *Pennuel Pierce* at *Warwick* court-houſe, or to the ſubſcriber.—*** All perſons having demands againſt me are deſired to apply for payment; and thoſe indebted are requeſted to make immediate payment to

(2t) RICHARD CLAUSEL.

WARWICK county, *Jan.* 17, 1780.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 19, 1780.

I PROPOSE to remove from this place to the neighbourhood of *Richmond* town, about the 20th of next month. Thoſe perſons who may have buſineſs with me after that day, are requeſted to apply to me there. It is my preſent intention to confine my practice to the Court of Appeals, High Court of Chancery, the General and Admiralty Courts; but I ſhall be always ready to attend the trial of any particular cauſe in the County Courts, ſhould the parties concerned chooſe to employ me.

EDMUND RANDOLPH.

To be SOLD to the higheſt bidder, on Tueſday *the 8th day of* February *next, for ready money, at the town of* Richmond,

SOME lots and tenements in the ſaid town, late the property of *Ninian Mumies.* Alſo one tenement, with a lumberhouſe, late the property of *Andrew Cheſmer.* Alſo two unimproved lots, late the property of *Richard Oſwald.* Alſo five lots, pleaſantly ſituated on *Shockoe* hill, lately the property of *James M'Donald.* Alſo a lot, with a good dwelling-houſe, late the property of *John Myers.*—At the ſame time (but on the premiſes, about ſix miles from *Richmond*) will be ſold, a very valuable tract of land, containing about ſix hundred acres, to be laid off in convenient parcels; upon which are the neceſſary houſes for crop-tobacco, together with all the crop, ſtocks, and utenſils of huſbandry, lately the property of *Robert Baine.* There will likewiſe be ſold, between twenty and thirty likely *Virginia* born ſlaves, conſiſting of men, women, and children, among which are ſeveral very valuable houſe ſervants, ſundry articles of houſehold and kitchen furniture. The whole of theſe articles being duly eſcheated, and now become veſted in the commonwealth. Wm. DANDRIDGE, Jun. Eſch.

To be SOLD, on the premiſes, on Thurſday *the 24th of* February *next,*

THE glebe land of *Dryſdale* pariſh, in *Caroline* county, containing about nine hundred acres of valuable land, with houſes and a plantation in good order for making a crop. The terms of ſale to be made known on the day, by

THE COMMISSIONERS.

FOR SALE,

THE noted horſe YORICK, late the property of the Honourable *John Taylor,* Eſq; deceaſed, of *Richmond* county. For terms apply to the ſubſcriber in *Amelia* county, near the court-houſe, who has alſo for ſale, ſeveral high blooded mares.

(2t) DANIEL JONES.

THE hiring of Mr. *Wallace*'s negroes at *Hampton* is put off till *Thurſday* the 27th inſtant, the weather having been too ſevere for the Eſcheators to attend the days before advertiſed. (2t)

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 19, 1780.

ALL officers belonging to Colonel *Harriſon*'s regiment of artillery, are deſired to meet at this place on the 30th inſtant, to receive inſtructions for recruiting the regiment.

By order of the Colonel,

WILLIAM PIERCE, Jun. Capt. Aid.

N. B. I will give a handſome price for a good [illegible]

Nanſemond & Iſle of Wight, *Dec.* 27, 1779.

THE ſubſcribers earneſtly ſolicit the favour of all perſons indebted to them for ſervices done in the practice of phyſick, ſurgery, &c. to diſcharge their reſpective balances immediately.

From the fluctuating ſtate of the currency, and the rapid riſe of every neceſſary article of life, it is become almoſt impoſſible to eſtabliſh any adequate advance upon the old fees for practice; and few, indeed, are diſpoſed to make any compenſation for the difference of money at the time they do adjuſt their accounts; therefore they now appriſe all thoſe who may in future have recourſe to their aſſiſtance, that their accounts will be made out at the old rates of practice, payable, when diſcharged, either in commodities of the country as they ſold in the year 1774, or money equivalent to their ſelling prices. This method, which is intended to obviate the above-mentioned inconveniencies, will, they flatter themſelves, be as agreeable as juſt, and reliſhed by all of liberal ſentiments.

(2t) SAMUEL COWDEN.
DAVID DICK.

...meeting of the President, and Professors under a ...
...by the Visitors on the 4th day of December ...

PRESENT,

JAMES MADISON, President and Professor ... Mathematicks;
... Law and Police;
... Professor of Anatomy and Medi...
Robert Andrews, Professor of Moral Philosophy, ... Natural and of Nations, and of the Fine ...
... Professor of Modern Languages.

Ordered, that the lectures in the different schools ... for the ensuing year on the 17th of ... for the encouragement of science,

Resolved, that a student on paying annually one ... shall be entitled to attend ... Professors; viz. of Law ... Philosophy and Mathema... Philosophy, the Laws of Nature ..., and of the Fine Arts; and that for ... of tobacco he shall be entitled ... Professors; the fees to be paid ... of the year when the courses of lectures ...

Ordered, that the former students shall enjoy a pre... to commence until the 30th of January.

... Mr. Andrews be appointed to execute ... Master of the college.

... be allowed that a person near the col... to give satisfaction, has agreed ... dinner to any number of stu... ... county, at the rate of 3000 ... per annum, and at the rate of 2500 ... number be greater.

By order of the society,

ROBERT ANDREWS, Clerk.

... college, Dec. 29, 1779.

... Committee of December 28, for the ...

... money, at Caroline court... Thursday in February (being ... and a woman, belonging to ... Cary, deceased, ...

... WILLIAMSBURG, Jan. 1, 1780.

... manner since, Irish and coarse ... and silk handkerchiefs, ... cloths, coarse cloths, linen, muslin, ... for winter gowns, aprons and ... and forks, penknives, chints ... little ware, brown and loaf ... bills of exchange on Eng... ... West Indies.

(6) SAMUEL BEALL.

... to observe two prime sailing vessels ...

... WILLIAMSBURG, January 1, 1780.

... thinks proper to inform the pub... from the profession of priest, and ... ing, so to render the necessity of ... them as heads for the future ... to wit, corn, pork, ... advance as will bear a pro... Gentlemen who ... with their orders, may depend ... as expeditiously and well ... will admit of.

R. GILBERT

... to the city of Williamsburg, ... the ninth of December, 1779, ...TCH, supposed to belong to ..., and was sent there the ... delivered to the owner, but the ... nothing of her, nor find he left any. ... her, forwed her to several ... of whom knowing any thing ... to the subscriber last August, to ... have taken sick in the month ... no opportunity of advertising ... will have lost such a watch, ... the property, and applying ..., and paying the expense of ...

(1) JOHN FERGUSSON

By his Excellency Thomas Jefferson, *Esq; Governour or Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth of* Virginia.

WHEREAS the exportation of provisions from this state will be attended with manifest injury to the United States, by supplying the enemy, and by rendering it difficult for the publick agents and contractors to procure supplies for the American troops, and will moreover give encouragement to engrossers and monopolizers to prosecute their hurtful practices, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of state, to issue this my proclamation for laying an embargo on provisions; and I do hereby lay an embargo on provisions, viz. On all beef, pork, bacon, wheat Indian corn, peafe, or other grain, or flour or meal made of the same, to continue until the first day of May next. And I do hereby ſtrictly prohibit all mariners, maſters, and commanders of veſſels, and all other perſons whatſoever within this ſtate, from loading on board any veſſel for exportation, and from exporting all or any of the above ſpecies of proviſions, by land or water, from the date hereof during the term aforeſaid, under pain of incurring the penalties inflicted by the act of Aſſembly, entitled, "An act to empower the Governour and Council to lay an embargo for a limited time," except as in the ſaid act is excepted. And I do hereby ſtrictly charge and command all naval officers and others, in their reſpective departments, to exert their beſt endeavours to the end that this embargo be ſtrictly obſerved.

GIVEN under my hand this 30th *day of* November, 1779. THOMAS JEFFERSON.

To be SOLD to the highest bidder for ready money, in Elizabeth City *county, on the premiſes, on* Tueſday *the* 1ſt *of* February *next,*

THAT famous plantation and beautiful ſituation, lying on *Hampton* river, and known by the name of *Little England*, containing about 170 acres; which will be laid off in parcels, or lots, by the commiſſioners. At the ſame time will be ſold, that pleaſant and well known place called *Little Scotland*, containing about 50 acres, with a neat and well finiſhed dwelling-houſe, with all other neceſſary outhouſes, and a good apple orchard. The above lately the property of *Capel & Oſgood Hanbury*.

On *Wedneſday* the 2d of *February* will be ſold in the town of *Hampton*, three lots, whereon ſtands a two ſtory brick houſe, with good counting and lodging rooms, and a good two ſtory lumber houſe, formerly the property of ——— *Oſwell*.

On *Thurſday* the 3d of *February* will be ſold, one acre of land, whereon is a good store-houſe, and all neceſſary out buildings; it is a very good ſituation for a retail ſtore, as it lies on the main road leading from *Hampton* to *York*, diſtant 10 miles from the former, the property of *Alexander & George Graham*. The whole of the above lands and tenements being eſcheated and becomes veſted in the commonwealth.

(4) MOSS ARMISTEAD, Eſcheator.

HANOVER county, *December* 13, 1779.

THE perſons who have demands againſt the eſtate of Mr. *Thomas Uſher*, formerly of *London*, merchant, which were not fully made out and ſettled (in a ſtate of them reported to the former General Court) are now requeſted to furniſh me with their claims and vouchers, that I may have them ſtated for the conſideration of the High Court of Chancery. And as I had the misfortune to loſe moſt of my books and papers by fire, ſome time ago, I entreat the ſeveral perſons from whom I received, and to whom I paid money on account of Mr. *Uſher*'s eſtate, to favour me with memorandums of the ſums, and dates of the receipts and payments, and forward them by poſt or other convenient and ſpeedy opportunities, that I may be able to render an account of them to the Court of Chancery, at the next ſeſſion, according to the order of that court. (1) PETER LYONS.

WILLIAMSBURG, *January* 7, 1780.

RUN away from the ſubſcriber, a likely well made negro fellow named HARRY, about 35 years old. He lived laſt year at *Mocus* iſland, near *Barrett*'s ferry, in *James City* county and is probably lurking in that neighbourhood, or about this city. I will give ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS to any perſon who will deliver him to the ſubſcriber.

(1) BURWELL STARKE.

In the HOUSE *of* SENATORS *Dec.* 22, 1779.

ORDERED, that the clerk of this Houſe do publiſh in each of the Virginia Gazettes, for four weeks ſucceſſively, previous to the next general election, a liſt of the diſtricts in claſs No. 3, the members for which having ſerved the term as mentioned in the allotment of the diſtricts, are by the conſtitution of government declared to be diſplaced.

WILLIAM DREW, C. S.

CLASS, No. III.

DISTRICTS.
1ſt. Dinwiddie Southampton, and Suſſex.
2d. Botetourt, Washington, Montgomery and Kentuckey.
3d. Hanover and Caroline.
4th. Eſſex, King William and King & Queen.
5th. Prince William and Fairfax.
6th. Yohogania, Monongalia, and Ohio.

The ſheriffs of the ſeveral counties compoſing theſe diſtricts, are directed to take notice, that at the general election of Delegates for their ſaid counties, in the month of April next, they are alſo to hold an election for a Senator agreeable to law. And as many ſheriffs have been heretofore very remiſs in making their returns in the manner preſcribed by law, it is expected, that the ſheriffs in each diſtrict, will punctually meet within ten days after every election, compare their polls, make their returns according to law, and forward them without delay to the clerk: The Houſe will proceed with the utmoſt ſeverity againſt every delinquent.

NATHANIEL HARRISON, C. S.

At a Court of Admiralty held at the capitol, in the city of Williamſburg, *the* 27th *day of* November 1779.

AN account of ſales of the rigging, tackle, &c. and cargo of the ſchooner *Polly*, libelled in this court by *Archibald Garriſon* and others, being rendered. It is decreed and ordered, that the nett ſum of 19733l. 19s. 11d. being one half of the nett proceeds thereof, to the libellants for and in lieu of ſalvage, and retain the other half in his hands ſubject to the future order of the court, and that this ſentence be publiſhed three times in the *Virginia* gazette.

Teſte, WILLIAM RUSSELL, Regiſter.

*** The above ſchooner whereof *Ebenezer Barley* was maſter, and *Edmund Rogers* of *Stamford*, in *Connecticut*, owner, was captured in *Auguſt* laſt by the privateer *Hazewood* of *New York*. (9)

WANTED at *Hunter*'s iron works, to whom ſuitable encouragement will be given, A man ſtrictly hand in a wire-mill; alſo nailers, card-makers and other artiſts in iron manufactures; where may be had, bar iron, rail rods, rolled hoops, plates and sheet iron, anchors, and a variety of other articles in the iron branch, with pots, kettles, and other caſtings.

(1f) ABNER VERNON.

☞ The beſt price will be given for old braſs or copper, by applying to *Robert Nicolſon* in this city.

WILLIAMSBURG, *Jan.* 13, 1780.

LOST this morning, between Mrs. *Pope*'s [illegible] and the houſe of Mr. *Lockley*, a pair of ſaddle bags, containing a pound of pepper, a ſhirt, a [illegible], and ſundry books and accounts wrote in them. Whoever delivers the ſaid ſaddle bags, books and accounts at Mr. *Lockley*'s, ſhall receive a reward of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (1f)

RUN away from the ſubſcriber ſome time laſt *September*, a negro fellow named CHARLES, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, 37 or 38 years old, well ſet, had on when he went away, a yellow waiſtcoat, greyiſh great coat, and ſail duck trouſers, has remarkable ſhort teeth which he keeps very diſcloſed, a ſcar on his forehead, and is very fond of playing on the banger. Whoever takes up the ſaid negro and delivers him to the ſubſcriber living in *Nanſemond* county, near *Suffolk*, ſhall have fifty dollars reward, if more than 25 miles, ſeventy five dollars.

(1) JOEL GILES.

TAKEN up in *York* county a black [illegible] 10 years old, about 4 feet 7½ in[illegible] a hanging mane and ſhort ſwitch [illegible] ceivable, and has a little whi[illegible] The owner is deſired to take h[illegible]

(1) CHAR[illegible]